

(Washington DC) Tomorrow morning, Congressman Charlie Gonzalez will hold a press conference on funding cuts for child support enforcement at the Bexar County Courthouse. Earlier in February, the Republican controlled Congress passed the Budget Reconciliation Bill despite unanimous Democratic opposition in the House of Representatives. The bill cut funding for a number of vital programs such as Medicaid and student loans. This legislation also cuts funding for child payment enforcement by \$1.5 billion and, as a result, early estimates show child support collections could drop \$8.4 billion over ten years.

"Funding cuts to child support enforcement will make life harder for many children in our community," said Congressman Gonzalez. "As Attorney General Abbott has said, he will be forced to cut his collection and enforcement staff, so more parents will be able to ignore their legal obligation to support their children. As a result, the standard of living for many Texas children will fall. Ultimately, the financial onus will shift from these 'dead-beat' parents to the state since the custodial parents will have to rely on social services to offset the reduced child support payments."

WHO: Congressman Charlie Gonzalez and
State Senator Leticia Van De Putte

WHAT: Child Support Enforcement Funding Cuts Press Conference

WHERE: North Side of Bexar County Courthouse

WHEN: 9:30am on Saturday, February 18, 2006

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